

It was a great week at the IES this past week with lots of special events! The "Space Week: Protecting Our Place in Space" interdisciplinary unit for grades 6-8 left us with so many memorable moments! **Check out the great article about "Space Week" on the front page of the "Local" section in the Sunday Worcester Telegram (5/27/12)!** The three Douglas teachers who created "Space Week" were honored for this exemplary unit at the Promising Practices: Exemplars in Curriculum Breakfast at the Asa Waters Mansion in Millbury last Friday! Two of our 7th graders were honored as NELMS Scholar/Leaders at a special banquet in Marlboro; we enjoyed a wonderful "Special Olympics"; and our Third Grade students had fun on their trip to the fire station, followed later in the week by a fantastic "Noon at the Museum" event!

Wow, what a terrific week! ☺



Tolerance
Investment
Growth
Effort
Respect
Safety



Douglas Intermediate Elementary School

"Where decisions are made in the best interest of our students."

To: Team IES

From: B. Bachelder and R. Godbout

Date: May 28, 2012

(Week of May 29-June 1, 2012)



Where We've Been...Where We're Going

Pictures by E. Sousa, R. Usher, K. Cristian, P. Smith, K. Gauthier, A. Baldyga, and B. Bachelder

Happy Memorial Day, and "Thank You" to our Veterans!



From "For the Fallen" – by L. Binyon

*They shall grow not old,
As we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them,
Nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
And in the morning,
We will remember them.*



Gr. 6-8 "Space Week: Protecting Our Place in Space" – A Memorable Success!

This past week has been an unforgettable week as the interdisciplinary unit for gr. 6-8, called "Space Week: Protecting Our Place in Space" has been underway! Students in all three grade levels have been studying space and doing space-related instructional activities in all subject areas during this past week! Last Thursday morning, under a bright blue sky, our sixth, seventh, and eighth graders cheered excitedly as a small group of sixth graders – dressed in **Raytheon** red and white T-shirts – launched

their Estes black powder rockets in the skateboard park directly across the street from Douglas Intermediate School. This group of students had stayed after school for the past few weeks to build the rockets, with the assistance of **Mrs. Karen Cristian, Gr. 6 Science teacher**, and **Raytheon Senior Engineer MacDonald Andrews**, who also conducted a lesson on “Satellite Communications” for the Gr. 7 Science classes. The rocket launching was just one of many memorable events made possible by the inspiring, creative, and resourceful team of teachers – **Mrs. Karen Cristian, Mrs. Rachel Usher (Gr. 7 Science teacher), and Mrs. Kelly Graveson (Gr. 8 Science teacher and Science Vertical Curriculum Team Chair)**, assisted by the teaching teams in grades 6, 7, and 8. Here at the IES, in addition to the Science teachers listed above, the Sixth Grade Team of teachers and paraprofessionals participating in the unit included **Mrs. Kathleen Hayes, Ms. Megan Towle, Mrs. Tracey Zuliani, Mrs. Heather Simmons, Mrs. Jaye Menchin, and Mrs. Susan Chupka**; and the Seventh Grade Team of teachers and paraprofessionals, including **Ms. Sharon Fogarty, Mrs. Ellen Reber, Mrs. Debbie Simonelli, Mrs. Judy Deary, Mr. Paul Bolio, Ms. Maria Creedon, Mrs. Darlene Crowley, and Mrs. Karen Bedlion**. Our Related Arts specialists – **Ms. Kristen Sacco, Mrs. Elaine Loehmann, Mrs. Susan Nichols, Mr. John Rheame, and Mr. Larry Pierce** – also conducted special activities that aligned with the unit in their classes, thus making the unit fully interdisciplinary, while also integrating the arts into a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) unit!

“Space Week” was created to increase student knowledge about the critical importance of space and satellite-based technology, space exploration, and space careers. It’s certainly timely, following last fall’s report from the National Academy of Sciences that we have lost control of the space environment and thus need to develop new technologies for debris removal before space becomes inaccessible for human purposes. As part of the Space Week curriculum, our teachers are working with students to compose letters to **Senator Richard T. Moore, Senator John Kerry, Senator Scott Brown, and Dr. John P. Holdren, the White House Science and Technology Advisor**, urging U.S. officials to take strong action to preserve the space environment. They have also been engrossed in a myriad range of challenging activities, such as Skyping with NASA experts; designing habitats for use on the International Space Station; examining lunar rocks; writing space stories and poems to share with kindergarten students; writing lunar myths and building/launching straw rockets, to share with first graders; and preparing for a unique creative writing activity to do with our second graders! Some of these space-related experiences will continue into this coming week, and field trips (Gr. 8 – Boston Museum of Science; Gr. 7 – Christa McAuliffe Center; and Gr. 6 – EcoTarium) have also taken place, or will happen shortly, that align with the unit.

We say a big “Thank You” to our diverse group of supporters and partners that have made “Space Week” possible, including the **Blackstone Valley Education Foundation, NASA, the Union of Concerned Scientists, WPI, Raytheon, the Gelfand Endeavor in Massachusetts Schools (GEMS), and the Regional Science Resource Center of UMass Medical School**. Guest speakers this week have included **Dr. David Wright**, a physicist with the Union of Concerned Scientists and a leading authority on the problem of space debris; **Mrs. Donna Taylor**, a national-board certified teacher, Douglas resident, and NASA NEAT (Network of Educator Astronaut Teacher) Teacher; and **Mr. Sam Ortega**, who is NASA’s Centennial Challenge Program Manager. **Mr. MacDonald Andrews**, Senior Raytheon Engineer, conducted presentations in our classrooms on STEM-related subjects, such as “Satellite Communications” in grade 7, and was a wonderful help with building and launching our rockets!

One key element of Space Week is the emphasis on space-related careers. It seems fitting for the region that spawned the Industrial Revolution to produce future scientists and engineers who will help to solve the debris problem and ensure that humanity enjoys a future in space. Blackstone Valley students are continuing the tradition of technological creativity and innovation that is their heritage! They are thus fulfilling the vision of **Dr. Robert Goddard**, the father of modern rocketry, who launched the first liquid-fueled rocket from Pakachoag Hill in Auburn, back in 1926. We think he would be proud to see the current generation carrying out his vision to explore the wonders of outer space, and to protect it for future generations to come!



Our three teachers who created the “Space Week” curriculum and brought it from a dream to a reality will be conducting a workshop for other Blackstone Valley teachers this coming Wednesday, May 30th at 4:30 p.m., at the Beaumont Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing Center in Northbridge, just prior to the Blackstone Valley Education Foundation reception for this year’s grant recipients. They look forward to sharing this unique, first-in-the-nation curriculum with other school districts!

(Above, L to R): **Mrs. Rachel Usher, Mrs. Karen Cristian, and Mrs. Kelly Graveson**, at the Asa Waters Mansion in Millbury, where they were honored on May 25th for their exemplary “Space Week” curriculum - along with other outstanding Blackstone Valley teachers - at a ceremony called “Promising Practices: Exemplars in Curriculum,” sponsored by the Blackstone Valley Superintendents’ Collaborative. **(Right):** Our honorees pictured with Superintendent Nancy Lane.



The interdisciplinary unit entitled “Space Week: Protecting Our Place in Space,” was made possible by a grant from the **Blackstone Valley Education Foundation!** We truly appreciate the Foundation’s support!

Mr. MacDonald Andrews, Senior Raytheon Engineer, and Mrs. Karen Cristian Prepare 6th Grade Rocket Builders for the Launch on May 24th!

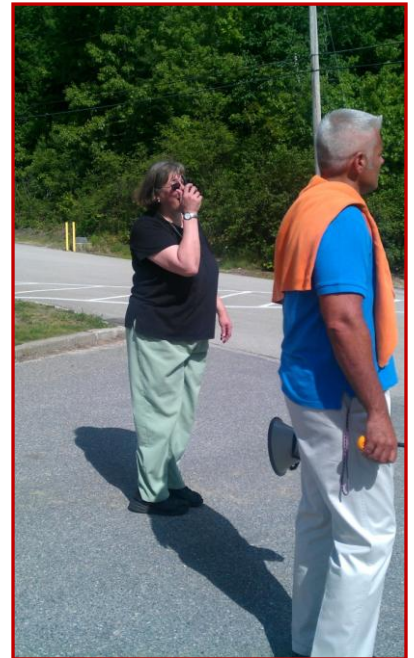


Scenes from the Rocket Launch for Grades 6, 7, and 8 on May 24th!



Left: Sixth and Seventh graders watch the black powder rocket launch.

Below: Mrs. Cristian communicates with Mr. Andrews at the launch site via two-way radio.



Below: Dean of Students Mr. Robert Godbout leads the spectators (seated on the grass across the street) in a round of applause for the Sixth Grade Rocket Builders!



Raytheon



Above: The rocket builders in their matching T-shirts donated by Raytheon!

Above: (L to R) Dr. David Wright, Senior Scientist and Co-Director of the Global Security Program at the Union of Concerned Scientists; Raytheon Senior Engineer MacDonald Andrews; and WPI Student Haley Andrews, following the highly successful launch!

Scenes from the Rocket Launch for Grades 6, 7, and 8 on May 24th!



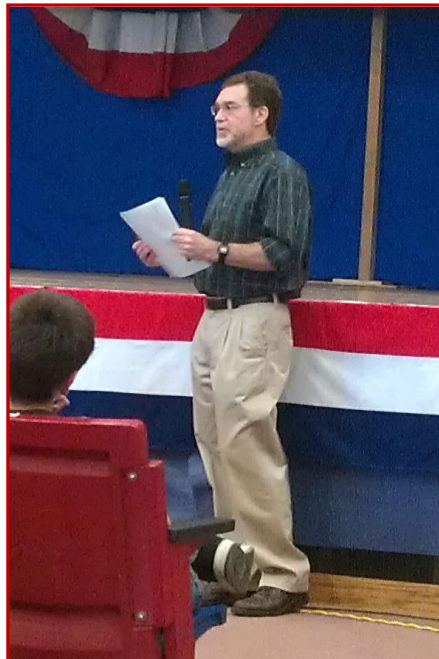
**Sixth Grade
Rocket Builders**
James Peck
Carmelo Lugo
Damian Dereszkievicz
Ethan Guertin
Luke Pilkington
Maxwell Postma
Brandon Daubney
Joseph Delorme
Henry Torpey
Thomas D'Amico

Left: Mrs. Bachelder, Ms. Haley Andrews, Dr. David Wright, Mr. MacDonald Andrews, and Mrs. Karen Cristian with the Sixth Grade Rocket Builders

Space Week Guest Speakers



Left: Mrs. Donna Taylor and Mrs. Rachel Usher. Mrs. Taylor, a NASA Educator Astronaut Teacher, kicked off Space Week with a special presentation entitled, "When Dreams Become a Reality"!



Center: Dr. David Wright, Senior Scientist and Co-Director of the Global Security Program at the Union of Concerned Scientists, speaks about Space Debris on Thursday, May 24th.

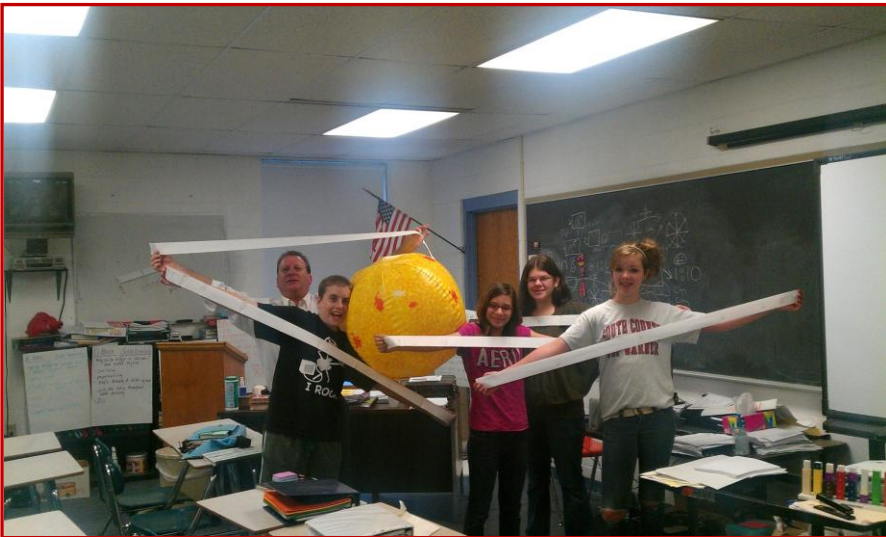
Space Week Guest Speakers



Left: Mr. Sam Ortega, NASA's Centennial Challenge Program Manager, speaks with students about living in space on Friday, May 25th.



More Scenes from Space Week



Left: Students create scale models of the planets in our solar system in Math. (L to R) Mr. Paul Bolio, Zachary Beane, Ebhann Brown, Olivia Brunetti, and Megan Carroll.

Below: Connor Grady and Sarah Grenier observe NASA meteorite samples.



Left: Rebecca Rokne and Morgan Mooney observe NASA meteorite samples.

More Scenes from Space Week!

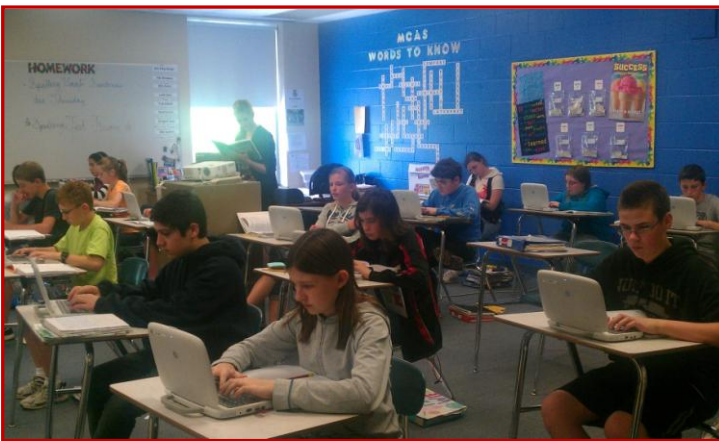


Left: Dominic DeSimone and Danny Hayes work on a History WebQuest in Mrs. Debbie Simonelli's History classroom.



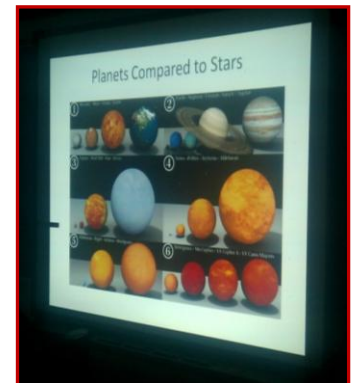
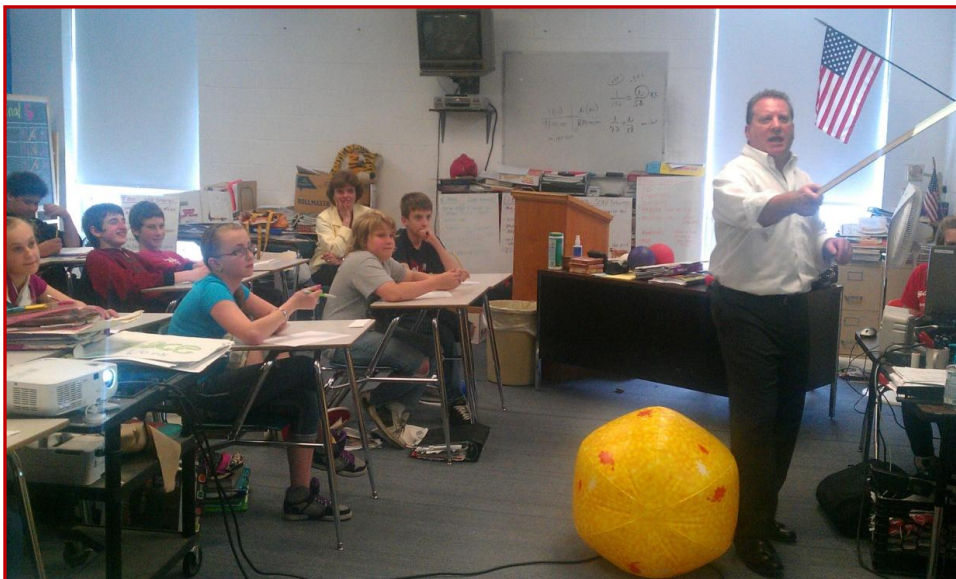
Above: Grace Brownell creates a Spanish dictionary of astronomy terms in Mrs. Ellen Reber's Spanish class.

Left: Students create their own lunar myths in Ms. Sharon Fogarty's Composition class.



Right: Alyssa Bourque examines lunar rocks from the Apollo missions.

www.nasa.gov



Left: Students create scale models of the solar system in Mr. Bolio's Math class.